Stanford

Dr. Victoria Watson-Zink

Postdoctoral Scholar, Biology

Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

I am an evolutionary marine invertebrate biologist, and I use bioinformatics and high-throughput sequencing technologies (genomics and transcriptomics) to explore life-history evolution in terrestrial crabs.

I completed my B.S. in Biological Sciences (concentration in Ecology and Evolution) at Cornell University in 2013 with academic and research honors. While there, I studied climate science, marine biology, and coral reef biodiversity via several internships/fellowships at the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, the Indonesian Biodiversity Research Center in Bali, Indonesia, and the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC.

After graduating, I worked for two years as a lab manager and research technician at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, CA, which is where I discovered my passion for understanding life-history evolution in terrestrial crabs. I began my PhD in Population Biology at UC Davis in 2015, and as a Fellow of both the NSF GRFP and the NSF EAPSI programs, I have traveled extensively across Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean to observe and collect genetic samples from several land crab species.

As a disabled Black woman in evolution and ecology, I am also passionate about increasing, supporting, and retaining diversity of all kinds in STEM, and during my PhD, I served as the first Graduate Student Advisor to the Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the College of Biological Sciences at UC Davis. I graduated as the first Black PhD from my degree program, and was also awarded the Merton Love Award for Best Dissertation in Ecology and Evolution for my dissertation work.

I am now a postdoc at Stanford University as a joint Stanford Science Fellow/NSF PRFB Fellow and hope to one day launch my own research lab studying major evolutionary transitions.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Finalist, HHMI Hanna H. Gray Fellowship, Howard Hughes Medical Institute (2023)
- Merton Love Award for Outstanding Dissertation in Ecology and Evolution, UC Davis Department of Evolution and Ecology (2022)
- NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Biology Recipient, National Science Foundation (2021)
- Stanford Science Fellowship Recipient, Stanford University (2021)
- Center for Population Biology Research Award, UC Davis Center for Population Biology (2020)
- Science and Society Writing Competition Winner, UC Davis Center for Population Biology (2020)
- Daphne and Ted Pengelley Award in Evolutionary Biology, UC Davis Center for Population Biology (2019)

- Center for Population Biology Collaborative Project Research Award, UC Davis Center for Population Biology (2018)
- Center for Population Biology Research Award, UC Davis Center for Population Biology (2018)
- Daphne and Ted Pengelley Award in Evolutionary Biology, UC Davis Center for Population Biology (2018)
- Graduate Research Excellence Grant, Society for the Study of Evolution (2018)
- NAIST International Student Workshop Fellow, Nara Institute for Science and Technology (NAIST), Japan (2018)
- Daphne and Ted Pengelley Award in Evolutionary Biology, UC Davis Center for Population Biology (2017)
- Grant-In-Aid-of-Research, Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society (2017)
- Rosemary Grant Graduate Student Research Award, Society for the Study of Evolution (2017)
- NSF East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes Fellowship Recipient, Singapore, National Science Foundation (2016)
- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Recipient, National Science Foundation (2015 - 2020)
- Distinction in Research Award, Cornell University (2013)
- Research Student Fellowship, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (2012 - 2013)
- Biology Research Fellowship, Cornell University (2011 - 2013)

STANFORD ADVISORS

- Lauren O'Connell, Postdoctoral Faculty Sponsor

LINKS

- www.origamicrab.wordpress.com: www.origamicrab.wordpress.com

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Convergent adaptation of true crabs (Decapoda: Brachyura) to a gradient of terrestrial environments.** *Systematic biology*
  Wolfe, J. M., Ballou, L., Luque, J., Watson-Zink, V. M., Ahyong, S. T., Barido-Sottani, J., Chan, T. Y., Chu, K. H., Crandall, K. A., Daniels, S. R., Felder, D. L., Mancke, H., Martin, et al
  2023

- **Terrestrialization in gastropods: lineages, ecological constraints and comparisons with other animals** *BIOLOGICAL JOURNAL OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY*
  Vermeij, G. J., Watson-Zink, V. M.
  2022

- **Troubled giants: The updated conservation status of the coconut crab (Birgus latro)** *RAFFLES BULLETIN OF ZOOLOGY*
  Cumberlidge, N., Caro, T., Watson-Zink, V. M., Naruse, T., Ng, P. L., Orchard, M., Rahayu, D. L., Wowor, D., Yeo, D. J., White, T.
  2022; 70: 1-21

- **Making the grade: Physiological adaptations to terrestrial environments in decapod crabs** *ARTHROPOD STRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT*
  Watson-Zink, V. M.
  2021; 64: 101089

- **A case study of the coconut crab Birgus latro on Zanzibar highlights global threats and conservation solutions** *ORYX*
  Caro, T., Hamad, H., Rashid, R., Kloiber, U., Morgan, V. M., Nokelainen, O., Caro, B., Pretelli, I., Cumberlidge, N., Borgerhoff Mulder, M.
  2021; 55 (4): 556-563

- **Colour polymorphism and protective coloration in coconut crabs** *ETHOLOGY ECOLOGY & EVOLUTION*
  Caro, T., Cluff, E., Morgan, V. M.
  2019; 31 (6): 514-525

- **Correlates of color polymorphism in coconut crabs Birgus latro** *ZOOLOGY*
  Caro, T., Morgan, V. M.

2018; 129: 1-8

- **Stress physiology and weapon integrity of intertidal mantis shrimp under future ocean conditions** *SCIENTIFIC REPORTS*
  deVries, M. S., Webb, S. J., Tu, J., Cory, E., Morgan, V., Sah, R. L., Deheyn, D. D., Taylor, J. A.
  2016; 6: 38637